

## NATIONAL SCHOOLS (IRELAND).

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,  
dated 14 April 1853.—for,

COPY " of the REGULATIONS recently adopted respecting the SALE of BOOKS intended for the Use of the IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOLS, to the Promoters of Poor Schools and the Public."

COPY of TREASURY MINUTE, dated 12 November 1852.

READ two Reports of the National Education Commissioners in Ireland, dated respectively the 24th January and 1st April 1852; also correspondence respecting the publication of the school books by the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, as set forth in their 17th Report, and in Parliamentary Paper 130, Session 1852.

And my Lords, having fully considered the same, are pleased to direct,—

1. That the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland shall furnish, to the Comptroller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office a list of the books for the publication of which tenders are to be invited, and a statement of the number of copies of each to which the parties who shall be declared contractors are to be bound in their contracts to supply during each year of their continuance (the contracts to be for five years), distinguishing the number likely to be required for the schools in connection with the National Board, and the numbers to be fixed in reference to the probable demand for all purposes.

2. In order to maintain scrupulously, and without change, the essential and distinguishing character of the National School books, a copy of each book intended for publication shall be deposited with my Lords as a standard; the contractor to be bound to produce each book in perfect accordance with such standards, as regards paper and press-work; the proof to be corrected by an officer to be appointed by my Lords for the purpose, and to be verified by his signature or initials.

3. In the event of the Commissioners deeming it expedient to make any alterations in any book or work, the cost of making such alterations shall be determined by a scale or rate in a schedule to the contracts.

4. The supplying of new books or works, or of a greater quantity than the number specified, shall be also provided for in the contracts.

5. The tenders shall be for the supply of the National School books in sheets for the use of the Commissioners, and in such quantities as shall be required by them, the sheets to be delivered free of expense at the stores of the Commissioners, and for the supply of the same books, bound according to specification, for the use of all other parties, such books to be delivered free of expense at the stores of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, or at a warehouse in Dublin appointed for their reception.

6. The contracts being made, and the cost of the production, so far as regards paper, printing, binding, &c., being ascertained, it is the intention of my Lords to add a reasonable sum for copyright, compilation, and composition, and to add, further, a sum of 10 per cent. for management and conduct of sales, and then to fix the price accordingly at which each book shall be sold to the trade, or to private parties taking more than a certain number of copies, as herein provided, such sales being for ready money only.

7. In order, however, to admit of booksellers and of the trade selling the books to the public at a fair profit, the price to the public shall be fixed at 25 or 30 per cent above the trade price, that is, above their cost, including management.

8. An allowance also of 10 per cent. to be made to parties not in the trade taking quantities, as set forth in a schedule to be prepared.

9. The Commissioners of National Education (Ireland) to sell or distribute their books to their own schools as they shall deem it expedient.

10. The Commissioners of National Education (Ireland) to be supplied with books at their cost price, excluding the 10 per cent. for management.

11. The contractors to find two sureties each for the due performance of their contracts, in sums proportioned to the probable value of the contracts, to be specified by my Lords, but so that they shall not exceed five per cent. on such probable value.

12. The cost of the books to be defrayed by the Commissioners out of the Education Vote, through the Stationery Office, or in such manner as my Lords may direct, and the proceeds of all sales to be brought to the credit of the Commissioners.

13. The Comptroller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office will prepare forms of tender in conformity with the foregoing instructions, and take the proper steps for advertising the contracts.

14. My Lords will make arrangements by which the sale of the books shall be conducted by an officer of Her Majesty's Stationery Office in Dublin.

Transmit copies of this Minute to the Commissioners of National Education, Ireland, the Comptroller of the Stationery Office, and the Education Department of the Privy Council, for their information and guidance.

#### COPY of TREASURY MINUTE, dated 17th December 1852.

WRITE to the Commissioners of National Education, Ireland, that my Lords have transmitted the specimen books forwarded with their letter of the 14th instant to the Comptroller of the Stationery Office, with instructions to have the contracts advertised for with as little delay as possible, and that my Lords hope all the arrangements may be very shortly completed for the publication of the National School books, according to the proposed new system.

My Lords read their Minute of November 12th, in which they state their intention to appoint an officer for the purpose of correcting the proof of each book intended for publication, and in order to maintain scrupulously and without change the essential and distinguishing character of these books.

It appears to my Lords to be very desirable that the officer so to be appointed should be not only highly competent to correct the press, but that he should likewise be a gentleman in whom the Commissioners have implicit confidence, and whose long period of service under the National Board, and experience in the administration of the system, would point him out as the most eligible person to be appointed, and with this view my Lords are pleased to appoint Mr. Maurice Oress, trusting that his appointment will be acceptable to the Commissioners, and that the functions in correcting the press will be found not inconsistent with his duties as one of their secretaries, the more especially as my Lords have reason to suppose that he has on several occasions been employed in a similar manner.

My Lords are pleased to assign a salary of 120*l.* a year for this service, to commence from the 1st January 1853.

My Lords read also that portion of their Minute of 12th November in which they state that arrangements will be made by which the sale of the National School books to the public shall be conducted by an officer of Her Majesty's Stationery Office in Dublin.

Having regard to the responsibility of the officer so to be appointed and to the extent of his duties, my Lords direct that he shall find security for the due discharge of his duties, and for the property committed to his charge, as well as for the payment of all sums received by him for sales of books, by bond or recognizance, himself in the sum of 1,000 *l.*, with a security for the same amount.

My Lords further direct that an account shall be opened in the name of Her Majesty's Comptroller of the Stationery Office in the Bank of Ireland for the Irish National School books, and that all sums received for sales shall be lodged at least once each week, or oftener if necessary, to that account, and be paid once monthly to the Commissioners, as they shall direct.

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The Comptroller of the Stationery Office will report to my Lords as to the arrangements which he thinks it will be expedient to make in reference to the storing and sale of the books; and the officer for superintending the sales will consider himself responsible, not only for the conduct of the sales, but for the superintendence and management of the whole of this department, under the direction of the Comptroller of the Stationery Office.

My Lords are pleased to assign a salary of 300*l.* a year for this office, and to appoint Mr. David McCulloch, now one of the district paymasters under the Board of Works at Cavan, to that office.

State further to the Commissioners that the Superintendent of the National School books at the Stationery Office, Dublin, will be considered responsible for having a supply of books at all times ready for their purposes, as well as for the use of the public, on a requisition from the Commissioners; that it is my Lords' desire that the Commissioners shall continue to pay, as they now do, the contractor's account through the Stationery Office, such accounts to comprise all books printed as aforesaid.

My Lords suggest to the Commissioners that it will be expedient forthwith to sell such standing forms and types as may now be in their possession.

Write to the Comptroller of the Stationery Office that my Lords transmit to him the standard copies of the National School books; my Lords desire he will take charge of them, and adopt the necessary means for having the contracts advertised with as little delay as possible.

State to him that the Commissioners of National Education request that they may be permitted to see the tenders, and also the schedule of prices, before my Lords finally decide upon them, and my Lords direct that they shall be forwarded to them accordingly.

Transmit copy of the Commissioners' letter of 14th December 1832, with its enclosure, for the information of the Comptroller of the Stationery Office, together with the standard copies of the National School books.

TENDERS for the supply of school books having been prepared agreeably to the conditions in the foregoing Minutes, and having been advertised in the principal British and Irish newspapers, were opened at the Stationery Office, London, on the 10th of February 1833, when Mr. Thom and Mr. Falconer, printers, Dublin, were found to be the lowest bidders, and the contracts with these gentlemen have since been completed.

The prices of the books to the trade, and to private parties ordering them, in quantities of the value of 5*l.* and upwards, will be as under:

| NAMES OF BOOKS.                              | PRICES.           | NAMES OF BOOKS.                           | PRICES. |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------|
|                                              | s. d.             |                                           | s. d.   |
| First Book of Lessons . . .                  | — 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ | Arithmetic in Theory and Practice . . .   | — 7     |
| Second ditto . . .                           | — 8               | Book-keeping . . .                        | — 4     |
| Serial to Second Book, No. 1 . . .           | — 8               | Key to ditto . . .                        | — 3     |
| Ditto . . . ditto . . . No. 2 . . .          | — 8               | Elements of Geography . . .               | — 10    |
| Fourth Book of Lessons . . .                 | — 7               | Compendium of ditto . . .                 | — 3     |
| Supplement to Fourth Book . . .              | — 8               | Elements of Geometry . . .                | — 8     |
| Fifth Book of Lessons . . .                  | — 7               | Measurements . . .                        | — 6     |
| Girls' Reading Book . . .                    | — 7               | Appendix to ditto . . .                   | — 4     |
| Biographical Sketches of British Poets . . . | — 9               | Scripture Lessons, Old Test., No. 1 . . . | — 4     |
| Selections from British Poets, Vol. 1 . . .  | — 6               | Ditto . . . ditto . . . No. 2 . . .       | — 4     |
| Ditto . . . ditto . . . Vol. 2 . . .         | — 9               | Ditto . . . New Test., No. 1 . . .        | — 4     |
| Introduction to the Art of Reading . . .     | — 5               | Ditto . . . ditto . . . No. 2 . . .       | — 4     |
| English Grammar . . .                        | — 3               | Sacred Poetry . . .                       | — 1     |
| Key to ditto . . .                           | —                 | Lessons on Youth of Christianity . . .    | — 2     |
| Third Book of Lessons . . .                  | — 6               | Agricultural Class Book . . .             | — 6     |
| First Anthology . . .                        | — 3               | Farm Account Book . . .                   | 1 2     |
| Key to ditto . . .                           | — 3               | Treatise on Needlework . . .              | 1 7     |

NATIONAL SCHOOLS (IRELAND)

COPY of the Regulations recently adopted  
respecting the Sale of Books intended for the  
Use of the term NATIONAL SCHOOLS, to the  
Promoters of Free Schools and the Public.

(*Mr. Francis Smith.*)

Ordered by The House of Commons, to be Printed,  
2 May 1850.

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*London* 1 02.